Mr. James Earl Ray, 85411 8/12/81
Station A
Tenn. State Pen.
Nashville, TN 37219-5255

Dear Jimmy,

In your 8/10 you say that it was the wrong procedure for you to appeal the failure to comply with your Huie request. I'm a little baffled by this so: let me explain my understanding.

If you have not had a response after 10 working days you can appeal and if your appeal is without response after 20 working says you can go to court.

I think you have to file separate requests of DJ and FBI but I think you can file a single appeal covering both.

I don't know what the claimed FBI backlog now is but if I remember correctly the last thing Jim Lesar said it is that the backlog is six months or less.

When you sue do not begin with a mandamus. You file under FOIA, 5 USC 552.

Bishop was another literary fink, right.

I doubt that you'll get anything at all useful if you get the Odell records and if he is alive they can withhold almost anything. If you have limited facilities I'd suggest that you conserve them for the Huie request. He is dead so they can't withhold under privacy.

But don't be disappointed if you find that they would not give him the time of day but did take all he offered - and that he offered just about anything, principled man that he was.

I don't know the origin of their dislike of him but I am certain of their dislike and I am inclined to believe that if it was not of earlier cause it was over the way he treated them in his Three Lives for Mississippi.

Sincerely,

Harold

Harold Weisberg